

Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

4 September 1980

Lieutenant Bud Jewett, USN  
USS NIMITZ, CVN 68  
FPO, New York, New York 09542

Dear Bud:

Now that I have fully recovered from our catapult launch and night landing, I just want to thank you for the ride in the A-6 last weekend. I realize you probably had no choice in the matter of taking a civilian observer up with you, and I therefore was especially appreciative of your patience and good humor. My apprehension disappeared once we had catapulted off the ship and, thanks to your expert flying, I thoroughly enjoyed the remainder of the flight--including the night landing. I thought the landing was an excellent one and only upon talking with the other members of the flight did I realize that the circumstances had been somewhat unusual. In any event, the whole experience was a unique one for me and one I shall not soon forget.

I returned from the NIMITZ highly impressed by the professionalism and skill of you and your colleagues. The nation certainly is in your debt.

Thanks again for a great flight and for your patience and courtesy.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gates  
Executive Assistant  
to the Director

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